GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3041
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2017
Landfills Near Tribal Villages
Gutha Shri Sukender Reddy

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge dumps and landfills are being located next to tribal villages, creating enormous toxic pollution for thousands of tribals near river water projects;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
(c) whether the Government proposes to enforce the extant laws and ban landfills/mud dumps near human settlements of tribals, dalits and farmers; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) to (d) The total quantity of Municipal Solid Waste Generated in the country is 1,42,870 Tonnes/day (approx.), as reported by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Overall, 91% of the total waste generated is collected of which 23% is treated and 27% is disposed through landfilling. The remaining 50% of the collected solid waste is dumped or disposed off unscientifically in the country. Such dumping and disposal of waste is not area specific. The Government has taken various measures to address the problem of disposal of Municipal Solid Waste generated in the country which inter-alia include notification of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 for management of solid waste covering areas from million plus cities to village panchayats. Under these rules, provisions are made for identification and selection criteria for landfill sites. State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) have been entrusted the responsibility to monitor adherence to environmental standards. The duties and responsibilities of Village Panchayats and States and Union Territories towards identification of landfill sites for disposal of waste have also been laid down. Besides this, the CPCB also issues directions to the Commissioners/CEOs of various metro cities, state capitals under the relevant provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for strict implementation of provisions of Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules and also for submission of targeted action plan.

The existing provisions are expected to ensure that concerns regarding human settlements of tribals, dalits and farmers are duly taken care of.

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